

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification has been amended to include the words "polyacrylates" and "polyvinylverslates."

Claims 23-25 have been replaced by Claims 26-28, respectively.

With respect to the use of the plural form of polymers/oligomers in Claim 25, it is believed that such usage is appropriate since the specific polymers/oligomers are recited as part of the Markush group which could include mixtures of the polymers/oligomers.

It is believed that the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph of Claims 23-25, 11-13, 15-18, and 22 has been overcome by the new Claims 26-28. Specifically, the term "nuclei for crystallization" has been replaced by "crystal nuclei", a term which finds clear support in the specification. The replacement of the cancelled language with the new language makes no change in the meaning since as recognized by the Examiner, crystal nuclei refers to "nuclei for crystallization of alumina hydrates" (see page 3 of the Office Action). Further, the skilled artisan is clearly knowledgeable of the meaning of "crystal nuclei" in the context of the present invention and the claims.

It is also believed that new Claims 26-28 overcomes the rejection under 112, first paragraph, set forth in the paragraph beginning at the bottom of page 2 and spanning page 3. Lastly, new Claim 26 overcomes the 112 rejection as to prior Claim 23 and accordingly, Claims 11-13 and 15-18.

With respect to the rejections under 112, 2nd paragraph as prior Claims 23, 25, 11-13, 15-18, and 22, it is believed that new Claims 26 and 28 overcome all of those rejections.

Turning to the art rejection, Claims 23, 24, 11-13, and 15-18 stand rejected as obvious over Magee '526. The rejection is respectfully traversed. As noted, Claims 23 and 24 have been replaced by new Claims 26 and 27. With respect first to Claim 26, that claim speaks only to the use of a crystal nuclei of an alumina hydrate and makes no mention of the use of any type of organic polymer. In this respect, the Examiner has stated that Magee '526 suggests the claimed process of adding an organic polymer but as noted, Claim 26 has nothing to do with the addition of any organic polymer and indeed does not mention any organic polymer. It is presumed that the Examiner was referring to prior Claim 25 (now Claim 28) which, like Claim 27, does speak to the use of an organic polymer.

As to Claims 27 and 28, while it is true that Magee '526 discloses the use of polyethylene having a specified particle size, Magee '526, in fact, is specifically limited to the use of polyethylene. There is no mention or suggestion of the use of any other polymer/oligomer. More specifically, Magee '526 is silent as to the use of a polymer/oligomer which forms a lattice in the aqueous medium from which the alumina hydrates are precipitated. Applicants' invention, as to Claims 27 and 28, is at least partly buttressed on the finding that polymers/oligomers that form lattices in the aqueous medium from which the alumina hydrates are to be precipitated, act as rather than being, a nuclei, seed or the like, in the crystallization of the alumina hydrate to obtain the desired boehmite and/or pseudo boehmite. With particular respect to Claim 27, Magee clearly does not teach or suggest the use of crystal nuclei of alumina hydrates and organic polymer/oligomers (one possibility under Claim 27) to effect crystallization of the alumina hydrates from the aqueous medium. Also as noted above, Magee '526 is silent as to the use of any type of polymer which forms a lattice in the aqueous medium from which the alumina hydrate is precipitated, a limitation present in both Claims

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27 and 28. It is respectfully submitted that Claims 27-29, 11-13, and 15-18 are patentable over Magee '526.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance which is hereby earnestly solicited and respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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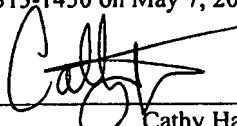
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